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Letter dated 11 February 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit herewith a letter addressed to you by Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the four Iranian diplomats who were abducted by the Israeli regime in Lebanon in 1982 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 11 February 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

2 February 2009

I have the pleasure to write to you with reference to your report of 18 November 2008 on resolution 1701 (2006) (S/2008/715), in which the need to investigate the case of four Iranian diplomats, namely, Mr. Seyyed Mohsen Mousavi (Chargé d'affaires), Mr. Ahmad Motevaselian (Military Attaché), Mr. Taghi Rastegar Moghadam (a staff member of the Embassy), and Mr. Kazem Akhavan (from the Islamic Republic News Agency), who were abducted in Lebanon in 1982, was highlighted.

I wish to welcome the readiness of the United Nations to help in addressing this issue, which is of great humanitarian significance. The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations has already sent a letter to you on 9 July 2008 (A/62/899-S/2008/448) presenting information on the date and other details regarding the circumstances surrounding the abduction of the above-mentioned Iranian nationals, including on the perpetrators who were involved.

This abduction is undoubtedly a clear violation of the basic principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, and contravenes the provisions of the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations and the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Moreover, this criminal act that has inflicted enormous pain and agony on the abductees' families, who have long been suffering in anguish and disillusionment, constitutes a flagrant violation of international humanitarian and human rights law.

In the light of the above, and given the expression of readiness by the United Nations, as mentioned in your report of 18 November 2008, to play a more active role in addressing this issue, I wish to request that a special commission be established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to investigate the case of the abducted Iranian diplomats and to determine their fate. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran stands ready to extend its full cooperation to you in this regard and to the proposed special commission.

(*Signed*) Manouchehr **Mottaki**
Minister for Foreign Affairs